**SANTOS MANUEL STUDENT UNION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
**GENERAL MEETING**
September 4, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.
Student Union North, Student Chambers (SUN-3305)
Zoom: https://csusb.zoom.us/j/85875529320

## MINUTES

**Members Present:** Anjali Bawa, Sebastian Bautista, Dr. Nathaniel Bodell, Samantha Coronado, Vilayat Del Rossi, Yazhini Elanchezhian, Sukhpreet Kaur, Amira Shalabi, Unnati Sisodiya, and Jalonis Taylor.

**Members Absent:** Edgar Lopez and Robinpreet Waraich.

**Staff:** Kesha Bates, Jasmine Bustillos, Josie Delgado, Jared Fisk, Matthew Jenkins, Elizabeth Junker, Sean Kinnally, Sonia Martinez, Lorena Marquez, Mario Orellana, Jennifer Puccinelli, and Ashley Puga.

**Guest:** Dr. Michael Rister and Dr. Monty VanWart.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:09 a.m.

**Roll Call:** A verbal roll call for members was conducted. Quorum was met.

**Approval of Minutes:** M/S Shalabi/Elanchezhian; motion to approve:
April 29, 2026, SMSU Board of Directors meeting minutes
May 6, 2026, SMSU Board of Directors Special Meeting minutes
May 6, 2026, SMSU Board of Directors Annual Meeting minutes
May 28, 2026, SMSU Executive Committee Meeting minutes
*Motion passed.*

**Reports:** The Executive Director provided a brief overview of summer activities, noting that the full reports were included in the Board packet. Highlights included support for more than 2,500 student orientations, expanded outreach to graduate and Palm Desert Campus students, continued student engagement and identity-based programming, and student employee development through training, leadership opportunities, organizational values, and NACE competencies. SMSU

and RecWell also completed summer facility preparations, including deep cleaning, preventative maintenance, technology and equipment upgrades, and continued planning for larger facility projects.

Additional updates included seven days of Board training and development conducted in partnership with ASI, including a joint retreat focused on governance, student advocacy, and community building. Organizational efforts also continued in the areas of the fiscal year-end audit, leadership recruitment, risk management, technology and communication enhancements, strategic planning, and budget monitoring. Immediate priorities include completing leadership searches, finalizing the strategic plan, monitoring the budget, and supporting fall semester operations and programming.

**Open Forum:**

Dr. Montgomery Van Wart, Professor of Public Administration, addressed the Board regarding concerns and recommendations previously provided to Board members by email. Dr. Van Wart requested that the Board consider correcting the public record regarding a prior review of the SMSU/DHRE loan, consider a reduction to the SMSU student fee based on his assessment of the organization's finances, and place the matter on a future agenda for further discussion.

The Board thanked Dr. Van Wart for his comments and noted that matters involving student fees, reserves, budget considerations, and financial stewardship fall within the Board's fiduciary responsibilities. The matter regarding SMSU fees was referred to the Finance and Contracts Committee for consideration. Dr. Van Wart subsequently raised a procedural concern regarding the opportunity for follow-up discussion during public comment and requested that the matter be referred to legal counsel. No additional public comments were received.

**Adoption of Agenda:** M/S Shalabi/Coronado; motion to adopt agenda for September 4, 2026, as presented. No changes were brought forward. *Motion passed.*

**OLD BUSINESS**

SMSU 72/26 Review and Approval of SMSU Leases Renewal (Action, Finance and Contracts Committee, Garcia)

Interim Executive Director Del Rossi presented the SMSU Lease Renewals on behalf of the Finance and Contracts Committee. He reviewed the renewal of existing SMSU leases for ASUA and Title IX, which had been carried forward from the previous academic year due to time constraints at prior meetings. The renewals continue the existing tenant arrangements with no substantive changes except for increasing the rental rate to the current Chancellor's Office rate of

$24.72 per square foot annually, with applicable rent and service charges reflected in the agreements. The leases are effective July 1, 2026, and billing will be reconciled to that date following execution. There was no interruption in occupancy or billing during the interim, as existing lease provisions allowed the tenants to continue on a month-to-month basis.

During discussion, clarification was provided regarding the Title IX lease calculation, specifically the distinction between monthly rent and additional service charges, which together account for the total lease amount. A clerical error identifying the Title IX lease as "Title IV" on the proposal sheet was also noted for correction. Following discussion, the Board proceeded to a roll call vote on approval of the lease renewals. With no further discussion, the board moved to a vote.

M/S Kaur/Sisodiya; motion to approve SMSU 72/26 Review and Approval of SMSU Leases Renewal (Action, Finance and Contracts Committee).

**Roll Call Vote:** 6 - In-Favor 0 - Opposed 3 - Abstentions
*Motion passed.*

SMSU 73/26 Review and Approval of Write-Offs for 25-26 Fiscal Year (Action, Finance and Contracts Committee, Garcia)

Interim Executive Director Del Rossi presented the proposed fiscal year write-offs on behalf of the Finance and Contracts Committee. The proposal included aged accounts receivable dating from 2019 through 2023 for which reasonable collection efforts had been exhausted. Some outstanding balances involved entities or funding sources that are no longer available, including older grant-related accounts. Del Rossi clarified that the write-offs represent a non-cash accounting adjustment intended to remove uncollectible balances from the organization's financial records and allow staff to focus collection efforts on more current receivables.

During discussion, the Board received clarification regarding SMSU's accounts receivable and collection procedures. Current invoices generally operate on net-30 terms, with follow-up occurring as balances age, and clients with outstanding balances will be restricted from making future facility reservations until their accounts are resolved. Staff reported that strengthened collection procedures have significantly improved the recovery and management of outstanding receivables. Moving forward, aged receivables will be reviewed more regularly through the Finance and Contracts Committee to prevent balances from remaining unresolved for extended periods. With no further discussion, the board moved to a vote.

M/S Coronado/Sisodiya; motion to approve SMSU 73/26 Review and Approval of Write-Offs for 25-26 Fiscal Year (Action, Finance and Contracts Committee).

**Roll Call Vote:** 8 - In-Favor 0 - Opposed 0 - Abstention
*Motion passed.*

**NEW BUSINESS**

SMSU 01/27 Report of Summer Executive Committee Actions Under Delegated Authority (Informational, Del Rossi)

Interim Executive Director Del Rossi presented an informational report on actions taken by the Executive Committee during the summer under the limited authority delegated through Board Resolution 2026-01. The Executive Committee met once and approved two time-sensitive, safety-related items: the SMSU South Elevator No. 2 Power Unit Replacement and the SRWC Safety Ladder. The elevator repair has been completed and the elevator is operational, while the safety ladder project has experienced purchasing-related delays.

The report was provided to fulfill the resolution's written reporting requirement and ensure the full Board was informed of actions taken under the Executive Committee's delegated authority. It was noted that the delegated summer authority had concluded. Board members expressed appreciation that the safety-related matters were addressed during the summer and subsequently reported to the full Board. As this was an informational item, no Board action was required.

SMSU 02/27 Outdoor Facility Improvement Initiative: Project Status and Request for Direction (Action, Kinnally)

The Board received an update on the Outdoor Facility Improvement Initiative, a joint project originally funded with $100,000 from SMSU and $100,000 from ASI to improve the outdoor recreation area east of the SRWC. The original concept evolved into a proposal for two basketball courts with four pickleball court layouts, portable pickleball nets, fencing and surface improvements, and lighting. Staff explained that project costs increased significantly after further review of campus requirements, electrical infrastructure, and a newly identified 7% campus capital planning fee. Because the project is located on campus-owned land, an MOU with the University is also required. Staff recommended solar lighting as the preferred long-term option due to the high cost of hardwired electrical work and the ongoing operating and maintenance costs associated with portable light towers.

The Board discussed whether to maintain the existing $200,000 authorization, modify the scope to remain within budget, establish a higher project ceiling, or defer the project. Discussion focused on project affordability, the competitive bidding requirement for projects exceeding $250,000, potential use of SMSU reserves for additional costs, ASI's possible continued participation, and the benefits of a permanent solar lighting solution compared with portable lighting. Board members indicated interest in obtaining more comparable project costs before committing additional funds. Following discussion, the Chair announced that the item would be tabled until the next meeting to allow staff additional time to refine the project scope, costs, and funding options before returning the matter to the Board for further consideration.

SMSU 03/27 Review and Approval of Audit Committee Members (Action, Del Rossi)

Interim Executive Director Del Rossi presented the proposed Audit Committee roster. He explained that the Audit Committee is one of the Board's smaller committees and is expected to

meet only a few times during the academic year, primarily in connection with the annual financial audit and related follow-up. The proposed roster included Jessica Liu as the campus administrative representative, along with Board members identified for committee service.

During discussion, clarification was provided regarding the committee's meeting frequency and participation options. Although committee meetings are generally scheduled during established Tuesday and Thursday time blocks, the Audit Committee is expected to meet no more than approximately four times during the year. In-person participation is preferred, with flexibility for remote participation when appropriate. No changes were made to the proposed roster, and the Board proceeded to a vote on approval of the Audit Committee membership.

M/S Coronado/Sisodiya; motion to approve SMSU 03/27 Review and Approval of Audit Committee Members (Action, Del Rossi).

**Voice Vote:**
**Ayes** – Unanimous **Nays** – None **Abstentions** – None
*Motion passed.*

SMSU 04/27 Review and Approval of Policies and Procedures Committee Members (Action, Del Rossi)

Interim Executive Director Del Rossi presented the proposed Policies and Procedures Committee roster. He explained that the committee is one of SMSU's four standing committees and, under the revised bylaws, must maintain a student majority. The initial roster was structured to meet the minimum membership requirements needed to begin committee work, with the expectation that additional student and staff members may be added later. The committee will focus on reviewing and modernizing organizational policies and procedures during the academic year.

Clarification was provided regarding the committee's meeting schedule, with meetings generally occurring monthly on Tuesdays or Thursdays. No changes were proposed to the initial roster. With no further questions or discussion, the Board proceeded to a vote.

M/S Sisodiya/Bautista; motion to approve SMSU 04/27 Review and Approval of Policies and Procedures Committee Members (Action, Del Rossi).

**Voice Vote:**
**Ayes** – Unanimous **Nays** – None **Abstentions** – None
*Motion passed.*

SMSU 05/27 Review and Approval of Personnel Committee Members (Action, Del Rossi)

Interim Executive Director Del Rossi presented the proposed Personnel Committee roster. He explained that the Personnel Committee is responsible for matters such as recommending candidates for Board vacancies and advising on personnel-related policies. Unlike the four

standing committees, the bylaws do not prescribe a specific number of members for the Personnel Committee; however, voting members of the committee must be voting members of the Board. Staff advisors and subject-matter experts may also participate in a non-voting capacity.

Clarification was provided regarding the committee's meeting schedule, with meetings generally held on Thursdays from noon to 1:00 p.m. and occurring more frequently during the spring semester due to elections and related personnel matters. During discussion, the proposed roster was amended to remove Edgar Lopez and appoint Dr. Bodell to the Personnel Committee.

M/S Shalabi/Sisodiya; motion to approve SMSU 05/27 Review and Approval of Personnel Committee Members (Action, Del Rossi). Discussion ensued.

M/S Coronado/Kaur; motion to amend the proposed roster to remove Edgar Lopez and appoint Dr. Bodell to the Personnel Committee.

**Voice Vote to Amendment:**
**Ayes** – Unanimous **Nays** – None **Abstentions** – None
*Motion to amend passed.*

The Board then considered the main motion as amended.

**Voice Vote on Amendment Main Motion:**
**Ayes** – Unanimous **Nays** – None **Abstentions** – None
*Motion to amend passed.*

SMSU 06/27 Review and Approval of Facilities and Sustainability Committee Members (Action, Del Rossi)

Interim Executive Director Del Rossi presented the proposed Facilities and Sustainability Committee roster. He explained that the committee oversees facility operations, commercial services, sustainability initiatives, and smaller organizational projects. For the upcoming year, projects under $50,000 will generally be directed to the Facilities and Sustainability Committee, while larger projects will be reviewed through the Finance and Contracts Committee. The proposed roster was developed to maintain a student majority and included representation from the Palm Desert Campus, reflecting increased facility activity and development at that location.

Clarification was provided regarding the committee's meeting schedule, with meetings generally held twice per month on Tuesdays from noon to 1:00 p.m. Discussion also addressed member availability and the ability to adjust committee assignments at a future Board meeting if scheduling conflicts arise or additional members wish to serve. With no further discussion, the Board proceeded to a voice vote.

M/S Sisodiya/Coronado; motion to approve SMSU 06/27 Review and Approval of Facilities and Sustainability Committee Members (Action, Del Rossi).

**Voice Vote:**
**Ayes** – Unanimous **Nays** – None **Abstentions** – None
*Motion passed.*

SMSU 07/27 Appointment of Student Representatives to Strategic Planning Committee (Action, Del Rossi)

Interim Executive Director Del Rossi presented the proposed Strategic Planning Committee roster. He explained that the committee will continue the organization's strategic planning work following the development of SMSU's mission, vision, and values during the previous year. This year, the committee will focus on developing organizational learning outcomes and key performance indicators to support assessment efforts and help evaluate whether SMSU programs, services, and facilities are meeting student needs. The proposed roster maintains the required student majority and includes staff advisors and subject-matter expertise in assessment and organizational development.

Clarification was provided regarding the committee's meeting schedule, with two meetings planned during the fall semester and two during the spring semester, generally on Thursdays from noon to 1:00 p.m. No changes were proposed to the initial roster. With no further questions or discussion, the Board proceeded to a voice vote.

M/S Shalabi/Coronado; motion to approve SMSU 07/27 Appointment of Student Representatives to Strategic Planning Committee (Action, Del Rossi).

**Voice Vote:**
**Ayes** – Unanimous **Nays** – None **Abstentions** – None
*Motion passed.*

SMSU 08/27 Appointment of Student Representatives to Finance and Contracts Committee (Action, Del Rossi)

Interim Executive Director Del Rossi presented the proposed Finance and Contracts Committee roster. He explained that the committee is responsible for developing the annual budget, reviewing financial matters, and considering financial items over $50,000 that are not already budgeted. He also noted that the Board Controller serves on the committee by virtue of the position, with additional staff advisors and subject-matter experts supporting the committee's work. The proposed roster was structured to include student representation along with staff members with budgeting and accounting expertise.

Clarification was provided regarding the committee's meeting schedule. The committee generally meets monthly on Tuesdays from noon to 1:00 p.m., with additional meetings anticipated during March and April to address year-end financial matters. With no further discussion, the Board proceeded to a voice vote.

M/S Coronado/Bautista; motion to approve SMSU 08/27Appointment of Student Representatives to Finance and Contracts Committee (Action, Del Rossi)

**Voice Vote:**

**Ayes** – Unanimous **Nays** – None **Abstentions** – None
*Motion passed*

SMSU 09/27 Board Roles, Responsibilities, and Decision-Making Expectations (Informational, Del Rossi)

Interim Executive Director Del Rossi presented an informational overview of Board roles, responsibilities, and decision-making expectations. He explained that the Board is responsible for high-level governance and organizational direction, including mission-aligned strategy, long-range planning, organizational goals, bylaws, policies, and other formal governance matters. Management and staff are responsible for carrying out that direction through operational planning, program and service delivery, assessment, routine maintenance, and day-to-day organizational decisions.

The presentation also emphasized the importance of keeping Board discussions focused on strategic alignment, student impact, stewardship and risk, available options and trade-offs, and accountability. Del Rossi noted that the guidance reflects recent governance and internal control improvements, Board training, and the organization's bylaws and responsibilities and expectations. Committee chairs will increasingly present committee items as the year progresses, with management continuing to serve as a resource to support effective Board decision-making. As this was an informational item, no Board action was required.

**Announcements**

- **Palm Desert Campus Board Meeting / Fall Fest:** The Board received a reminder that the October 8th board meeting will be held at the Palm Desert Campus and will be shortened to one-hour. Transportation and virtual participation options will be available, and members are encouraged to remain afterward for Fall Fest.
- **IdeaFest:** The Entrepreneurship Club and SMSU Financial Literacy Center will host IdeaFest on September 17. The event is intended to provide resources and engagement opportunities for student clubs and organizations, including opportunities to share and receive feedback on business ideas.
- **Joint SMSU/ASI Professional Development:** Monthly professional development sessions will be held jointly for the SMSU and ASI Boards on Friday mornings. The first session will feature President Gomez discussing CSUSB priorities for the year and broader CSU system priorities.
- **Upcoming SMSU Programs and Events:** Upcoming events include LEAD: Pressure to Success, Breaking Barriers through Bachata, Melanin & Meaning, the Graduate Student Success Center's "Getting Organized" session, La Asada, The Shop, and Money Mindset. Additional programs and events are scheduled throughout the month.

- **Hispanic Heritage Month:** Hispanic Heritage Month will begin September 15 with La Bienvenida from noon to 1:00 p.m. Additional heritage-month programming will continue throughout the academic year, including LGBT History Month in October and Native American Heritage Month in November. Students interested in participating in the year-long planning committee were encouraged to get involved.
- **Pow Wow and California Native American Day:** Board members were encouraged to attend the upcoming Pow Wow and California Native American Day activities, including educational programming involving local fourth-grade students. Board members were also invited to participate in SMSU events throughout the semester to increase Board visibility and engagement with students.

M/S Sisodiya/Coronado; motion to adjourn meeting at 12:01 p.m.

Respectfully reviewed & submitted by:

Jalonis Taylor
Jalonis Taylor (Oct 21, 2026 23:30:38 PDT)

Jalonis Taylor, Secretary

10/21/2026

Date